

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday at 9:30 a.m., September 7, 2004, the following members were present:

Bob Rowe, Chairman  
Thomas J. Schneider, Vice Chairman  
Matt Brainard, Commissioner  
Greg Jergeson, Commissioner  
Jay Stovall, Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Wayne Budt, Administrator  
Transportation & Centralized Services Division

(344) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes;

Commissioner Stovall moved to approve the Commission Minutes for the week of August 30, 2004. Commissioner Brainard seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson  
Legal Division

(345) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Ronan Telephone Company and Hot Springs Telephone Petition for EAS - Docket No's. D2004.2.17 and D2004.2.22:

Commissioner Schneider moved to approve Qwest's request to extend its protective order in Docket No.'s D2004.2.17 and D2004.2.22 subject to the standard in the Great Falls Tribune and the PSC rules. Commissioner Brainard seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(346) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Western Montana Local Calling Coalition Petition for EAS - D2003.12.170:

Commissioner Schneider moved to grant the protective order subject to the Great Falls Tribune standard and PSC rules. Commissioner Brainard seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(347) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Annual Certification of Montana ETCs - Non-Docket No. N2004.7.121:

Commissioner Schneider moved to submit a conditional ETC certification for all ETC's certified in non-rural incumbent areas with the certification noting the factors identified by the Commission as appropriate, and the draft certification be routed to Commissioners for comments.

Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(348) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of 3 Rivers PCS (wireless) Application for ETC Designation - Docket No. D2003.10.156:

Commissioner Brainard moved to allow the supplemental testimony and direct staff to revise the procedural schedule as necessary. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed 4 to 1. Commissioner Schneider voted nay.

(349) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of NWE Annual QF/AC 2004 - Docket No. D2004.6.96:

Commissioner Schneider moved to approve the protective order subject to the Great Falls Tribune standard and PSC rules. Commissioner Brainard seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Stovall moved to approve the increase in the interim rate and extend the STPP1 to projects above 3 megawatts. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed 4 to 1. Commissioner Jergeson voted nay.

(350) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Missoula Electric Coop and NWE Exclusive Service Agreement, Missoula Area - Docket No. D2004.6.93:

Commissioner Jergeson moved to approve the MEC/NWE agreement. Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(351) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of EWM General Rate Case, Great Falls - Docket No. D2004.3.46:

Commissioner Jergeson moved to grant pro hac vice to Craig Paulson on behalf of Malmstrom in Docket No. D2004.3.46. Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE  
Will Rosquist, Eric Eck  
Utility Division

(352) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of NWE Application for Advanced Approval of Basin Creek - Docket No. D2004.3.45:

Commissioner Jergeson moved to issue the final order in Docket No. D2004.3.45 inclusive of the editing changes approved by the Commission. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed 3 to 2. Commissioners' Stovall and Schneider voted nay.

APPEARANCE

Marla Larson  
Utility Division

(353) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of the comments on National Interest Electric Transmission:

Commissioner Schneider moved that the Montana Commission support the comments as drafted. Commissioner Brainard seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Wayne Budt, Administrator  
Transportation & Centralized Services Division

(354) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Budget/Personnel:

Commissioner Jergeson moved that Option No. 1 be presented along with a strongly worded statement that this does not reflect the ability of the PSC to accomplish its statutory functions. Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion, which passed 4 to 0. Commissioner Rowe had to leave and was not available to vote on this issue.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

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BOB ROWE, Chairman

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THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Vice Chairman

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MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

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GREG JERGESON, Commissioner

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JAY STOVALL, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Connie Jones  
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)